GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:228
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Import Price of Pulses and Oilseeds
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production/availability of pulses and oilseeds in the country has been affected due to the cheaper imports on account of independent nature of the trade policy on Minimum Support Price (MSP) and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Ministry has approached the Department of Commerce for making changes in the trade policy to ensure that prices of imported pulses and oilseeds are not lower than the MSP; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Department of Commerce thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*228 FOR 10.05.2016 REGARDING IMPORT PRICE OF PULSES AND OILSEEDS.

(a) : As our domestic production of pulses is lower than the demand, the deficit is largely met through imports. To ensure availability of pulses at reasonable prices, import of pulses is allowed at zero duty and export is banned except for Kabuli chana and upto 10,000 MT per annum of organic pulses & Lentils. In the case of oilseeds, import attracts a basic customs duty of 30% and imports are also marginal. Production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds in India remains low as these crops are mainly grown on marginal lands in rainfed areas and by small and marginal farmers.

(b) & (c) : No, Madam. As per the Economic Survey, 2015-16, India has adopted a trade policy vis-Ã -vis agricultural commodities, which is responsive to the changing domestic situation of crop production, demand, supply and most importantly retail prices. The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of agricultural products is, therefore, subject to frequent revisions, including their reductions or removals depending on the domestic conditions, to protect farmers and agriculture linked industries.
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